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SLA P-16 Initiative, Volume 1, Issue 2, Spring 2011

University of Nebraska Omaha, Service Learning Academy

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SERVICE LEARNING ACADEMY

P-16 INITIATIVE

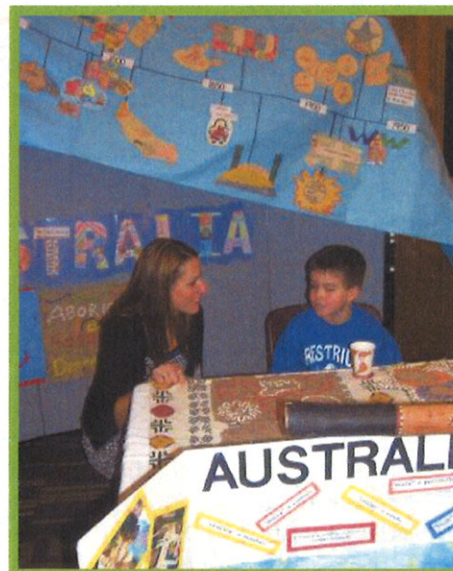
CultureFest 2011

By Kristin Hassett

On February 27th over 400 people attended CultureFest held in the Milo Bail Student Center at UNO. Twenty-six schools represented pre-school, elementary, middle, high school, and college students and families from all over the Omaha metro area.

They came to watch sixteen performances celebrating the rich cultural diversity of the metro area which included Mexican folk dancing, African drumming, Karen rubber band jump roping, an international fashion show, and Chinese lessons. During reflection one student enthusiastically wrote, "I learned how to count in Chinese!"

Students had the opportunity to learn about different cultures through interactive activities and displays. One attendee commented, "Omaha has so many talented kids



and activities for them. It was a great event and a nice variety of activities and demonstrations."

Omaha Public Schools' students from the International Magnet Pathway schools of Crestridge Elementary, Beveridge Middle, and South High worked with the UNO Service Learning Academy for months to prepare a day of cultural celebration. As part of the preparation, international students studying at UNO visited Crestridge Elementary to share

Contact Us

Paul Sather	554-3196
<i>Director</i>	
Julie Dierberger	554-3268
<i>P-16 Coordinator</i>	
Kathleen Oleson Lyons	554-4083
<i>Assistant Director</i>	
Carlynn Hartman-Kurtz	554-2712
<i>Community Liaison</i>	
Lucy Garza Westbrook	554-3055
<i>Service Learning Associate</i>	
Pamela Ashley	554-3656
<i>Program Eval. & Assessment Associate</i>	
Alice Woll	554-2427
<i>Administrative Technician</i>	

Graduate Assistants

Sarah Hanify	554-3880
Nver Hasratyan	554-3880
Kristin Hassett	554-2736
Tess Larson	554-2736
Krystal Boose	554-2736
Kelsey Tourek	554-2736

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games, photos, and other bits of their cultures with six classrooms of eager students. Many community cultural organizations participated in the event by performing and offering educational information.

The UNO Service Learning Academy and Omaha Public Schools have identified March 4th, 2012 as the date of their second annual CultureFest.

Latino Migration & Integration

By Nver Hasratyan

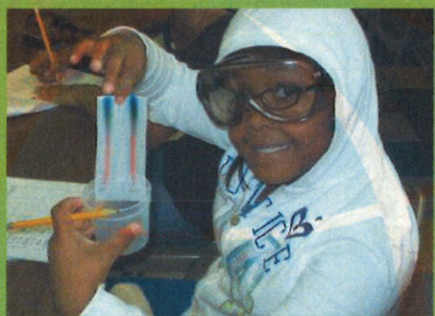
The success of this semester's Latino Migration and Integration service learning course was the result of a strong collaboration between UNO's Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS) and Omaha South High School in partnership with two community agencies: the Intercultural Senior Center (ISC) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Students learned how to become engaged citizens by identifying and analyzing immigration-related issues in the community. They developed

ways to step into advocacy and leadership roles by applying academic learning and outside-class experiences to the identified needs of the community.

The students attended Judiciary Committee Hearings on an immigration bill 48 (LB48) to learn more about the controversial immigration law enforcement bill introduced by Sen. Charlie Janssen at Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature. They also interviewed Latino seniors at the Intercultural Senior Center to learn about the seniors' life stories and challenges as immigrants. Such experiences have allowed the

students to establish a broader understanding and knowledge of government policies and political processes affecting migration and immigrant integration in the Omaha community.

The final product developed by the students included bilingual fact sheets and delivery of the findings at a community forum held on April 30th at Omaha South High, and in the senior center on May 5th. Both were facilitated by simultaneous English/Spanish interpretation. The project involved strong reflection component through journalings and dialogues throughout the semester.



Chemistry Club

By Tess Larson

The UNO Chemistry Club facilitated "The Magic of Chemistry" Day at Girls Incorporated of Omaha for the 9 and 10-year-old age group. UNO Chemistry students and a group of UNO "7-Days-of-Service" volunteers spent the day showing the girls that the field of chemistry can be fun by helping the girls crack the "Case of the Unsigned Letter." Girls performed science experiments, with the guidance of the UNO students, to figure out who wrote the "unsigned letter."

During lunch the girls listened to a real-life crime scene investigator describe her life working in the forensic science field. After speaking, she asked the girls if they wanted to be a crime scene investigator when they grow up;

"The Girls Inc. youth were so engaged and inquisitive, the speaker struggled to finish her presentation without hands continuously popping up!"

-GA Tess Larson

all of the girls raised their hands.

After lunch the girls finished their science experiments and discussed what they had learned. The overall enthusiasm for chemistry that the UNO students inspired in the Girls Inc. girls was remarkable.

Malcolm X Mural

By Krystal Boose

A perfect project recipe was created when Dr. Meredith Bacon's UNO Minority Politics class and Mrs. Gabrielle Gaines-Liwaru's art students, from Beveridge Magnet School for Global Studies & the Arts, were brought together to create a mural for Omaha's Malcolm X Memorial Foundation (MXMF).

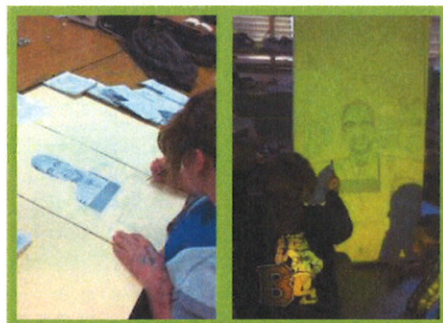
The ingredients called for ½ cup of inspiration, talent, and collaboration, while the last ½ required heart, soul, and stewardship. Mrs. Gaines-Liwaru started the project by offering a sign-up sheet for those interested.

She stated, "Beveridge students feel

compelled to honor the positive traits of this slain civil rights leader, whose birth site has been a trash dumpsite in our North Omaha community."

Representatives of Beveridge's Art Club visited UNO's campus in April for a presentation by UNO's Minority Politics class to learn about Malcolm X beyond his highly publicized militant image. There, students heard about his values for equality, justice, and education. They used these as inspirations in collaborating on a mural that portrays an accurate and honorable life story of this Omaha native.

Beveridge students spent seven weeks drawing in sketch books and transferring their work onto three large canvases. The mural features a large image of Malcolm X speaking behind a podium, as well as various other images that represent different stages of his life, elements he valued, and famous quotes. On May 19th it was unveiled to the MXMF and is on display at 3448 Evans St., Omaha, NE.



Exploring Latino Art, Music, & Culture

By Kelsey Tourek

During the months of March and April, approximately 40 of Dr. Marisol Arbelaez's Latino/Latin American Studies students interacted with 40 Beveridge Magnet Middle School students, taught by Mrs. Melissa Kandido, to explore Latino/Latin Art, Music and Culture.

The students learned about Latino/Latin music at a presentation hosted by UNO and the South Omaha Art Institute musician Mr. Marcos Mora, visited El Museo Latino, and reflected on the diverse forms of art, music and culture they experienced in South Omaha. The

"I loved learning how to dance! When I danced, I could feel the culture. I even used my new Bachata moves in Belize over Spring break!"

- Beveridge student

students also came together one last time to serve at El Museo Latino on April 30th, for the Dia del Niño (Day of the Child) celebration. Mr. Mora invited students to participate in the Mariachi performance, which UNO and Beveridge students gladly accepted!



Urban Farm

By Sarah Hanify

The fact that the emission spectrograph machine was so large that it had to be airlifted onto the third floor of its UNO home during construction in the 1960's was only one of the many things that caught the attention of the King Science and Technology Magnet students on March 9th. On that day, these 7th and 8th grade science students received a behind-the-scenes tour of many of the labs in the Durham Science Building. They also worked with UNO General

Chemistry students to interpret results from soil sample analyses that the UNO students had completed during their chemistry lab periods.



In early January, the King Science students worked with their teachers, Mrs. Teresa Bender

and Mrs. Kim Garcia, to collect soil samples from around the school grounds. These samples were delivered to UNO for the General Chemistry students to analyze.

The results of the analysis and the impact that lead soil contamination can have on a community were presented to the King Science students during their day on campus. Both groups of students participated in a discussion about the results and how this might impact the school garden that is being planted at King Science this summer.



SERVICE LEARNING ACADEMY P-16 INITIATIVE

Milo Bail Student Center 114
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182-0789

It seems like just yesterday I was preparing for my first Service Learning Seminar. Since then we have had the pleasure of working with amazing teams of P-12 educators, UNO faculty members and community non-profit partners. The service learning teams have creatively and innovatively connected their courses to both educational standards and identified community needs.

This newsletter highlights the successes of the Service Learning P-16 program facilitated through the University of Nebraska at Omaha with support from Building Bright Futures and the Corporation for National and Community Service. We hope you are inspired!

After two Service Learning Seminars, 53 participants have co-developed 47 service learning plans, many of which were implemented this year. Some projects were large and involved hundreds of community members,

and others were implemented by a small group working toward a community goal. No matter the project design, nearly 2400 service learners from P-12 schools and UNO were engaged in their learning, serving over 37,000 hours in the community.

These projects deeply impact the community and learners. We hope you will join us in this exciting journey of making learning relevant. The next Service Learning Seminar will be held July 11-15 on the UNO campus. As always, if your school or community agency is interested in customized options, please contact me at jdierberger@unomaha.edu!

We are looking forward to partnering with you in service and learning next academic year!

Julie Dierberger, P-16 Coordinator
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Service Learning Academy

Seminar Schedule 2011

July 11th-15th

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.



All training sessions will be held
at the Thompson Alumni Center

